

REMARKS

Claims 23-104 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 27 has been amended to address the informality noted in the paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Office Action. Claims 31, 42-45, 54-61, 63-67, 69-76 and 83-99 have been amended for improved breadth, antecedent basis, and/or to correct typographical errors. New dependent claims 100-104 have been added.

Claims 23-31, 54 and 82 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over U.S. Patent No. 6,701,927. Further, claims 32 through 53, 62 through 81 and 90-99 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over various claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,634,358. Finally, claims 55 through 61 and 83 through 89 were rejected under the judicially created obviousness-type double patenting over claim 23 of U.S. Patent No. 6,701,927 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,634,358.

Although the rejection is respectfully traversed, Applicants submit herewith a duly executed Terminal Disclaimer in relation to the '927 and '358 patents.

In addition, a second Terminal Disclaimer is provided in relation to U.S. pending patent application no. 10/004,428 filed December 6, 2001. Although there is no pending provisional, obvious-type double patenting rejection, the second Terminal Disclaimer is provided to obviate any issues and place the application in its best form for allowance. Per MPEP 804.02, the filing of a Terminal Disclaimer is not an admission of the propriety of the rejection.

It is believed that only a single fee of \$110 is required for the processing of both Terminal Disclaimers, but the Patent Office personnel in charge of this is invited to contact the undersigned if authorization for an additional \$110 fee is deemed necessary.

The present application is one of nine related U.S. utility patent applications or patents included within the same general patent family. Of the remaining eight applications/patents, all are already of record and have been considered by the Examiner, with the possible exception of the latest filed application (U.S. application no. 10/704,754 filed November 12, 2003 – U.S. Published Application No. 2004/0094159A1). It is not believed that this application includes claims that would be relevant to the examiner, but the Examiner is invited to make his own determination of relevance. A suitable form PTO-1449 listing U.S. Published Application No. 2004/0094159A1 and 10/704,754 is provided for the Examiner to initial and return. The form PTO-1449 also includes the U.S. Patent (6,581,602) stemming from U.S. Application No. 10/067,772 which application is already of record. If believed necessary, the PTO is authorized to charge Applicants' deposit account \$180 for consideration.

In view of the above amendment and the submission of the Terminal Disclaimer, Applicants respectfully submit that all the claims are patentable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.


KWOK et al.
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Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desired to place the application in better condition for allowance, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____


Paul T. Bowen
Reg. No. 38,009

PTB:glf/jck
Attachments:
Terminal Disclaimers (2)
Form PTO-1449

1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100